

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 ACDA-19 SCI-06 FEA-02 EB-11 AEC-11

DRC-01 /161 W

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R 071000Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 3335

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, WB, GW

SUBJECT: BERLIN POWER PROJECTS

REF: A) BONN 7165 B) BERLIN 716 C) BERLIN A-30 (FEB 9, 1973)

1. RECOMMENDATION OF ALLIED MISSIONS IN BERLIN IN REF B WAS DESIGNED AS NEXT STEP IN DIALOGUE WITH GERMAN AUTHORITIES RATHER THAN FINAL PRONOUNCEMENT ON ALL ASPECTS OF BERLIN'S FUTURE ENERGY NEEDS. FOR INSTANCE PAPER: A) SPECIFICALLY POSTPONES DEVELOPMENT OF ALLIED POSITION ON GERMAN PROPOSED 35 PERCENT DEPENDENCY LIMIT UNTIL SENAT HAS PREPARED AND WE HAVE STUDIED CONTINGENCY PLAN RE WHAT TO DO IF POWER FROM EAST INTERRUPTED; B) AVOIDS MAKING USE OF LINES FOR EASTERN CUSTOMERS A HARD AND FAST CONDITION; AND C) IS SILENT ON NUCLEAR POWER IN BERLIN BECAUSE WE WERE NOT ASKED ABOUT THISM ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY INDICATION OF EMBASSY VIEWS ON PAPER AS IT STANDS SO WE MAY PROVIDE INTERIM RESPONSE TO LONG-OUTSTANDING SENAT INQUIRIES.

2. RE 35 PERCENT LIMIT, WE HAVE SOME RESERVATIONS TOO. BERLIN  
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CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAS RECOMMENDED 25 PERCENT LIMIT AND BERLIN

POWER COMPANY (BEWAG) HAS ATTEMPTED TO KEEP FUEL FROM EAST DOWN TO LEVEL OF NORMAL RESERVE CAPACITY IN POWER SYSTEM (16-20 PERCENT). BEWAG EXPERT TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT 35 PERCENT FIGURE WAS BASED ON 20 PERCENT RESERVE PLUS 15 PERCENT TOLERABLE ON TEMPORARY BASIS BECAUSE OF ADDITIONAL SECURITY FROM TRANSMISSION LINE, WHEREAS 25 PERCENT FIGURE WAS INTENDED AS LIMIT ON AVERAGE CONSUMPTION. SENAT TOLD THREE BERLIN MISSION THAT PRESENT BERLIN PLANT CAPACITY OF 1637 MW WAS EXPECTED TO INCREASE TO 3600 MW BY 1982, OF WHICH 35 PERCENT WOULD COME FROM EAST (700 MW BASE LOAD FROM USSR AND 600 MW PEAK LOAD FROM POLAND). MORE THAN DOUBLING CAPACITY IN EIGHT YEARS IS UNLIKELY TO BE REQUIRED, ESPECIALLY SINCE BERLIN WOULD THEN PRESUMABLY BE PART OF LARGER NET. BUT SOVIET AND POLISH PROJECTS MAY NOT BE COMPLETED BY 1982.

3. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ANNUAL REPORT STATES THAT, IF BERLIN WERE PART OF NET INCLUDING FRG, GDR, AND EVENTUALLY USSR AND POLAND, ITS POWER SUPPLY WOULD BE LEAST ENDANGERED IF EASTERN SIDE RECEIVED AS WELL AS DELIVERED ELECTRICITY. BEWAG EXPERT SAYS IT WOULD BE IMPRACTICAL TO USE SAME AC TRANSMISSION LINES FOR BOTH WESTERN AND EASTERN CUSTOMERS, AND EXPERTS NOW THINKING OF AC LINE FROM USSR WITH BOOSTER STATION IN BERLIN INSTEAD OF DC LINE PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED. HOWEVER, BEWAG BELIEVES GDR MORE LIKELY TO GRANT PERMISSION FOR TRANSMISSION LINE IF GDR WERE TO OBTAIN POWER AS PART OF PROJECT, E.G., THROUGH EXISTING COMECON NET FROM SECOND NUCLEAR PLANT TO BE BUILT IN USSR WITH FRG ASSISTANCE.

4. SOME OF FACTORS WHICH LED U.S. TO DISCOURAGE GERMAN 1961 PROPOSAL FOR NUCLEAR POWER IN BERLIN HAVE CHANGED AND USBER BELIEVES IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO INFORM SENAT THAT ALLIED ARE PREPARED WITHOUT REPEAT WITHOUT COMMITMENT TO CONSIDER ALL PROPOSALS TO MEET BERLIN POWER NEEDS (REF C). HOWEVER, EVEN BEWAG EXPERT WHO SEEMS TO BE STAUNCHEST ADVOCATE OF NUCLEAR POWER IN BERLIN FEELS THAT LOGICALLY SENAT FIRST SHOULD GO ON RECORD FAVORING THIS BEFORE ALLIES ARE ASKED FOR VIEWS AND FRG SHOULD APPROVE LUDWIGSHAFEN AS PRECEDENT FOR NUCLEAR POWER IN POPULATED AREA BEFORE SENAT GOES ON RECORD. KLEIN

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## Message Attributes

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